

NEWS

JAMES A. MCCLURE U.S. SENATE

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MCCLURE ACCUSES SOVIETS OF CLEARLY VIOLATING SALT II TREATY

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CONTACT: Bill Livingstone
(202) 224-1010

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Jim McClure (R-ID) today accused the Soviet Union of clearly violating the SALT II Treaty.

McClure delivered a letter to President Reagan at the White House this afternoon documenting the Soviet violation, and asked the President to confirm the treaty violation.

"I strongly believe," McClure said, "that the American people need to be told the straight truth about the Soviet behavior."

Using unclassified evidence, McClure shows conclusively that the Soviets have flight-tested two new Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs). The SALT II Treaty, however, only allows the Soviet Union to test one new ICBM.

In article IV, paragraph 9 of the Treaty, both the U.S. and the Soviet Union agreed that "each Party may flight-test and deploy one new type of light ICBM."

Although the SALT II Treaty has not been ratified by the Senate, both parties are obligated by traditional international law to do nothing that would "defeat the object and purpose" of the treaty. The U.S. has declared that it will not "undercut" SALT II so long as the Soviets show "equal restraint."

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"The violation by the Soviet Union," McClure said, "clearly both undercuts and defeats the object and purpose of the SALT II Treaty. It also indicates the Soviets are unwilling to show any restraint.

The Soviet violation is of paramount importance, McClure explained. Currently, Congress is debating arms control policies, strategic modernization programs, the defense budget, and the nuclear freeze. The fact that the Soviets can not be trusted to comply with a treaty, demonstrates the seriousness of the Soviet strategic threat. In addition, it demonstrates the need for increased U.S. defense efforts, and the failure of SALT II to solve our security problems.

"I am extremely concerned," McClure said, "about the Constitutional, legal, political, and national security problems with prolonged U.S. unilateral compliance with a SALT II Treaty that has not received the advice and consent of the Senate."

Without debating either the merits of the SALT II Treaty or accepting the propriety of the U.S. position, McClure said that it is recognized that the U.S. is complying with SALT II. To this end, he added, Congress has an obligation to determine whether the Soviets are showing "equal restraint" or "undercutting" SALT II.

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In the letter to President Reagan, Senator McClure also asked the President 11 other SALT II compliance questions, including Backfire and Bear bomber violations, Soviet camouflage, concealment and encoding of electronic signals, and violations of ICBM ceilings.

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